Anata no Koto wa Sorehodo

1

Ikuemi Ryo

563
い-9-6
祥伝社

c o n t e n t s

section 1 Misaki Miyahara 1

section 2 Wataru Ichimura 17

section 3 Tetsuya Iwata 33

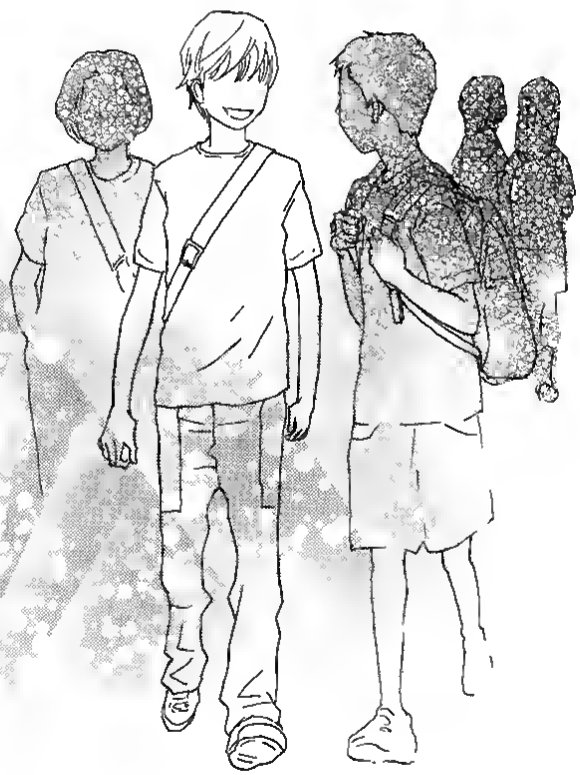
section 4 Arisumi Koki 49

section. *1* Mitsu Miyoshi

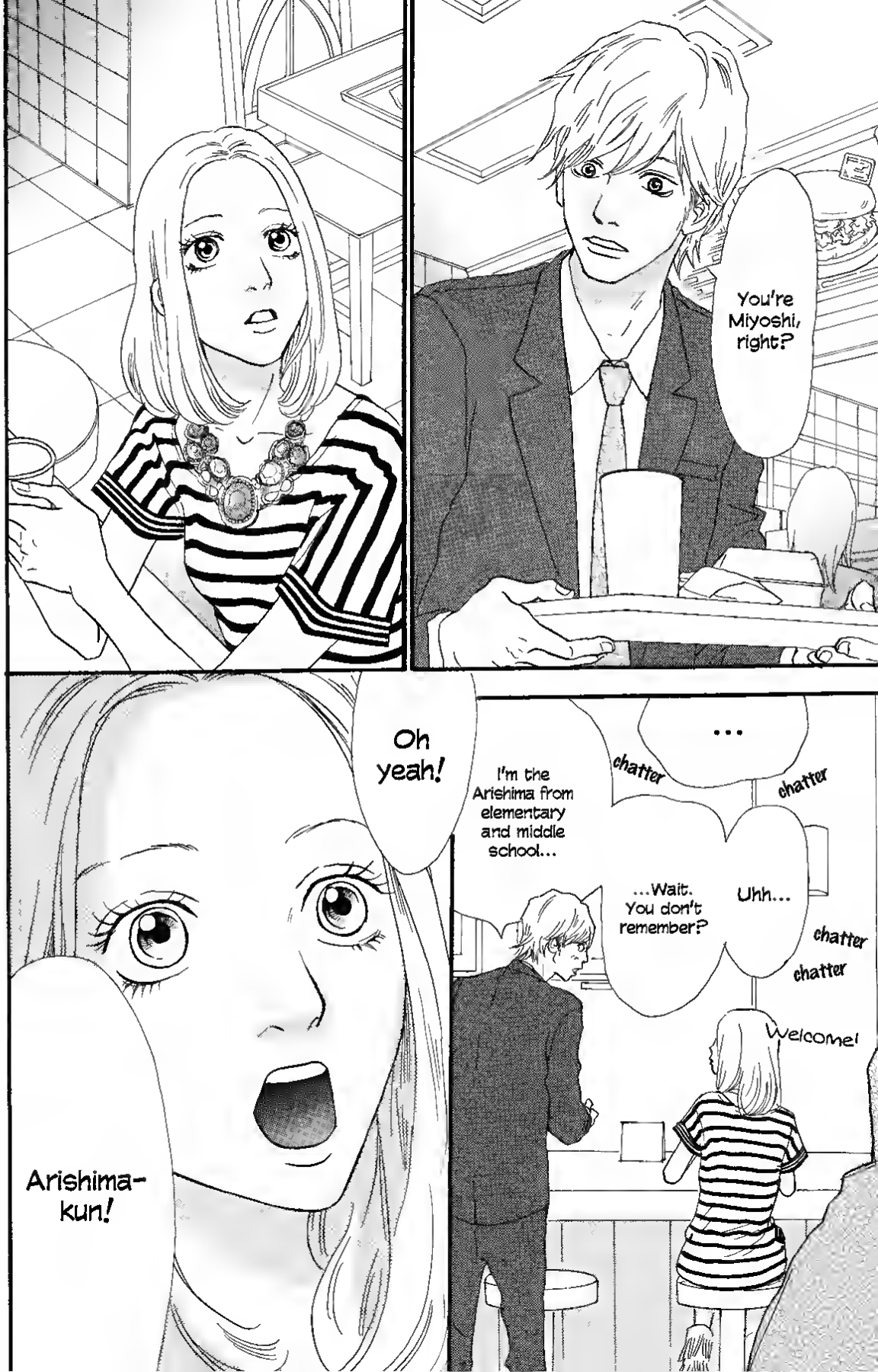
section. 1 *Mitsu Miyoshi*

It's been decided.

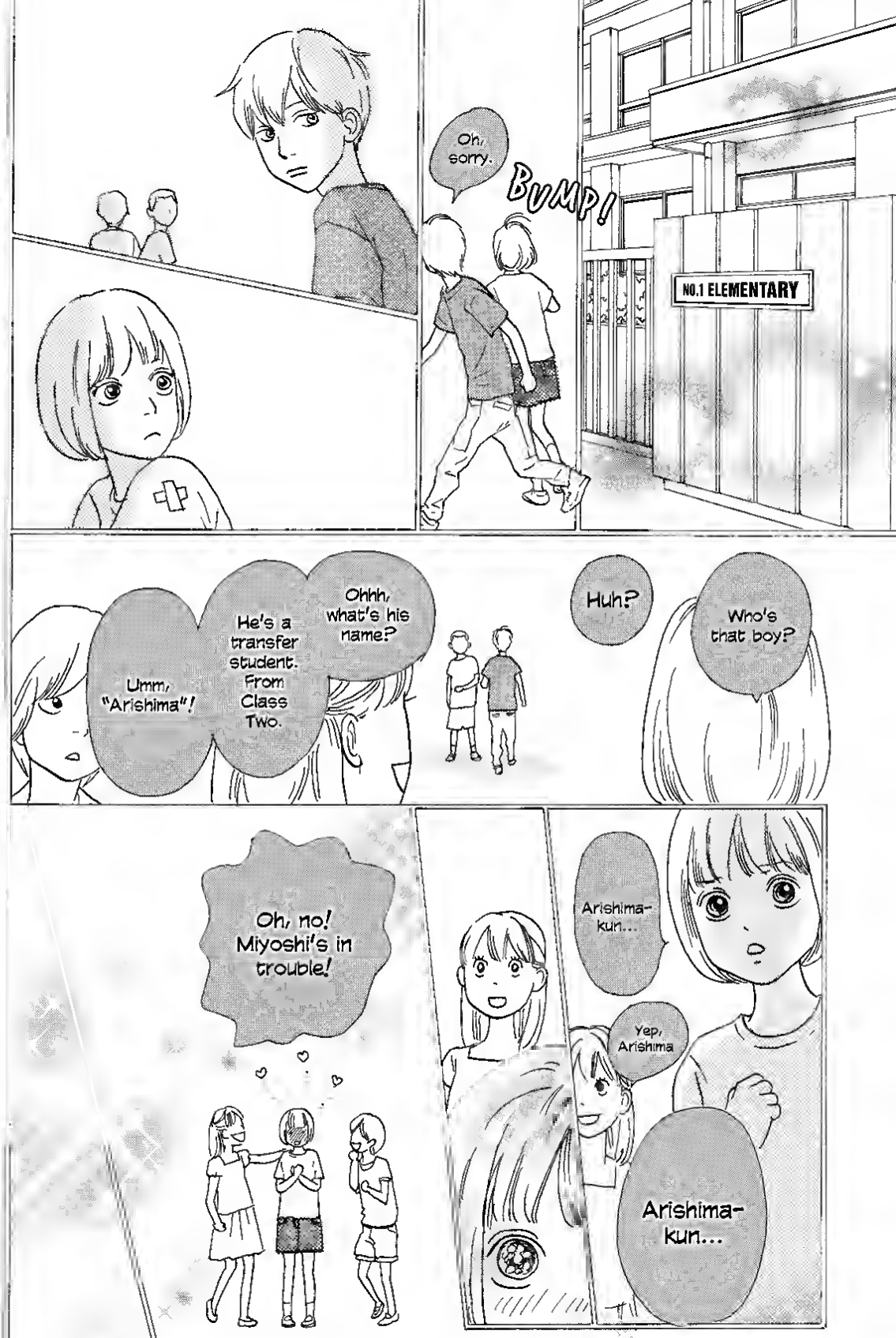
No matter what it takes, he will be mine.



Miyoshi?


You're Miyoshi, right?
...
chatter
chatter
I'm the Arishima from elementary and middle school...
Uhh...
...Wait. You don't remember?
chatter
chatter
Welcome!
Oh yeah!
Arishima-kun!

Wow, so what are you up to these days, Miyoshi?
Are you single? You've lost weight!
Um
Do you come here a lot?
Uh
Uh
Can I sit next to you?
How could I forget?
How could anyone forget?
Sorry.
I was so nostalgic,
it made me nervous.
Um,
well,
which question should I answer first?

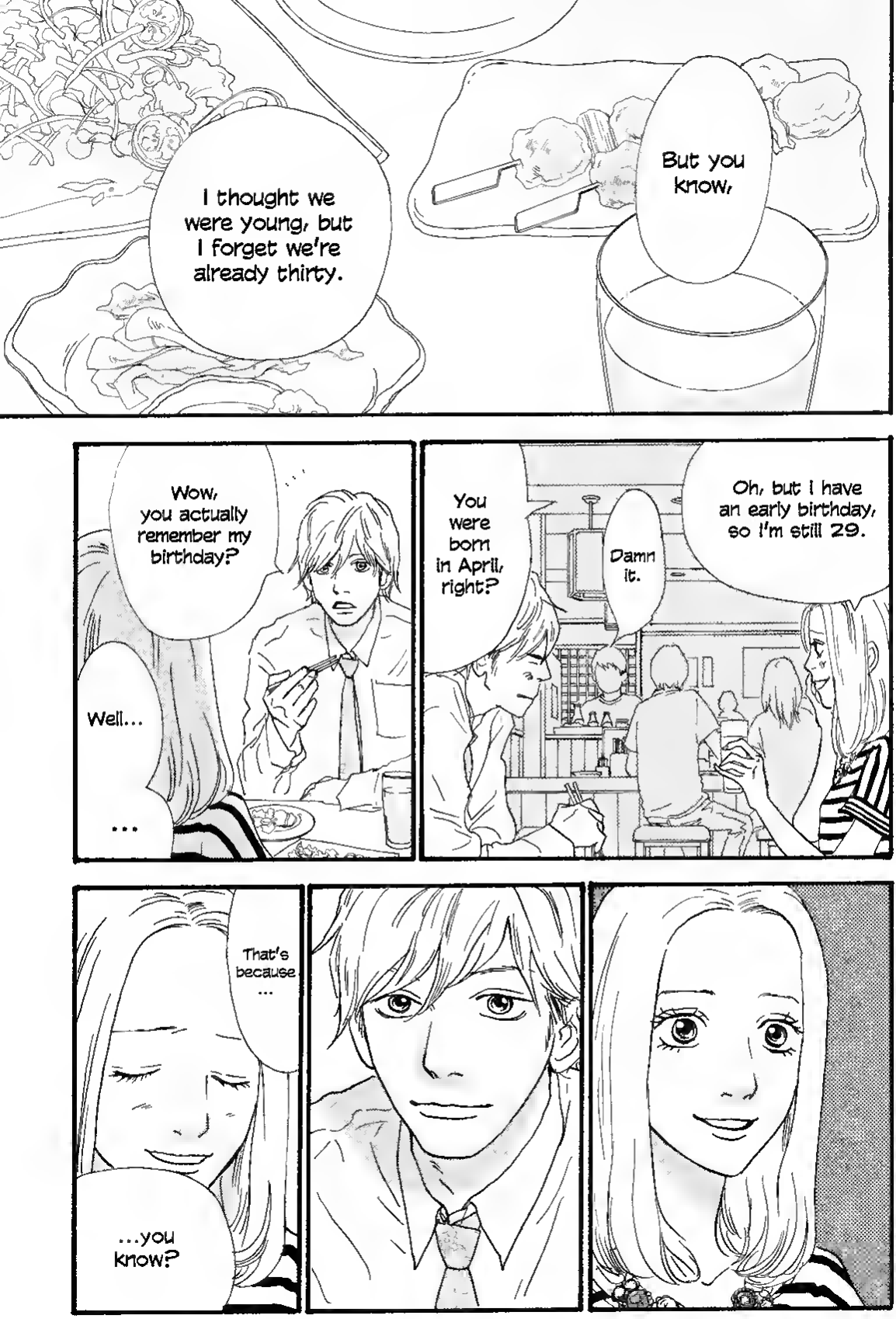

Oh, sorry.
BUMP!
NO.1 ELEMENTARY
Umm, "Arishima"!
He's a transfer student. From Class Two.
Ohhh, what's his name?
Huh?
Who's that boy?
Oh, no! Miyoshi's in trouble!
Arishima-kun...
Yep, Arishima
Arishima-kun...

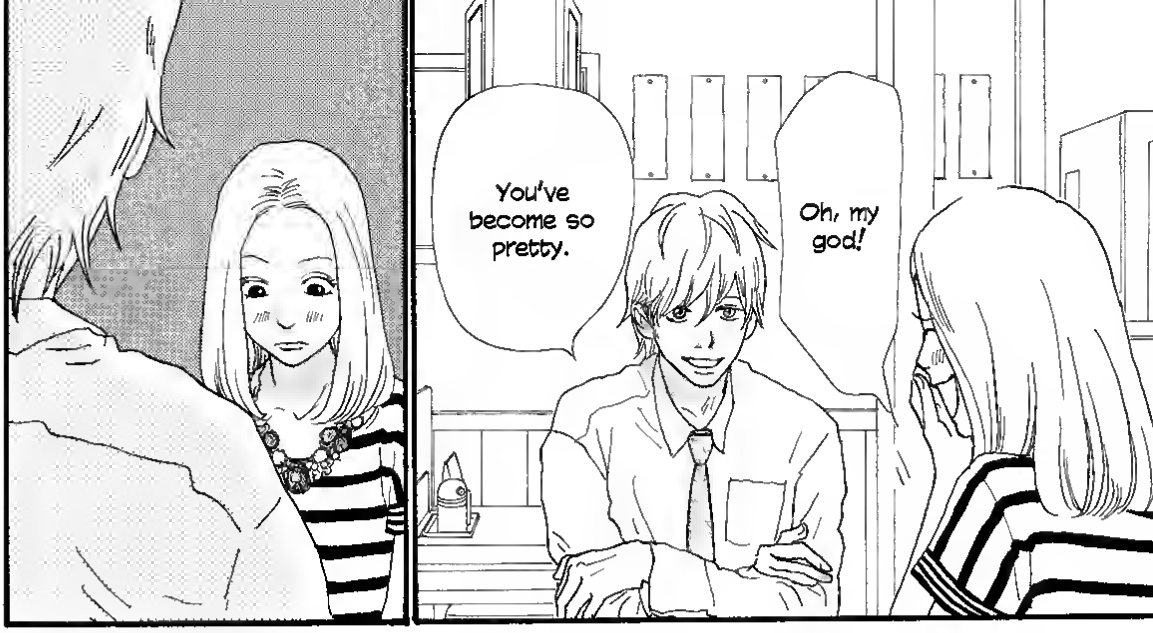
I thought we would never see each other again.
Oh,
and let's see,
I'm working as a medical clerk in a hospital.
They had a drinking party today, but it was a drag, so I bailed.
I wanted to have coffee, but it's my first time here.
And then...
What else did you ask?
Oh.
And of course
you can sit next to me.
Hmm.
Why the "Hmm"?
What are you up to these days ...?

I started attending the class again and was awakened to the depths of ceramic arts.
Huh?
At a ceramics classroom...
Are you single?
So I used up all my money to get an atelier deep in the mountains,
plowed a new field that was littered with rocks and pebbles, planted vegetables in it,
bathed in a tub of water heated by wood that I had chopped myself,
and then when night fell, I'd look up at the sky scattered with stars, and gulp down beer from a beer mug that I made myself, and...
I'm just an average salaryman who could never live that kind of life?
Y-
HaHa!
You're a pain!
Arishima-kun, you're a pain in the butt.
Hahahaha!
You think so?
What? You find that funny?

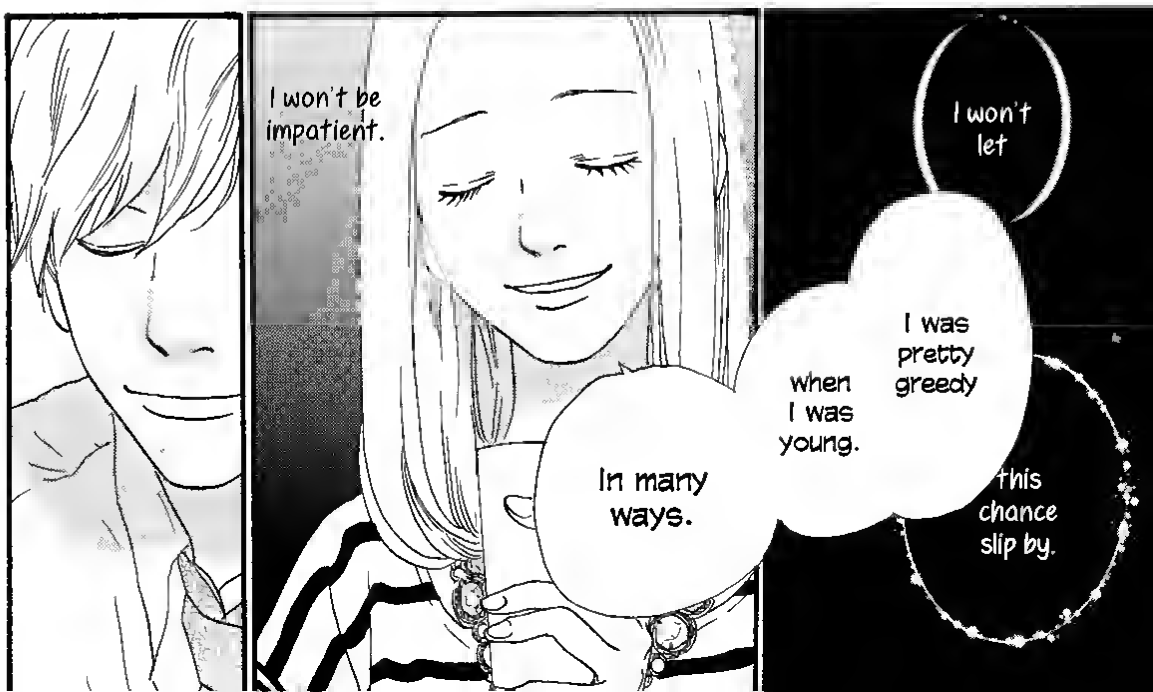
Are you okay for time?
Oh, yeah. Totally.
Want to grab a few drinks?
Oh, but didn't you just bail out of a drinking party?
I didn't think I'd see you again, Miyoshi.
Me neither!
It's okay, I'd love a drink!
Or should I say, I'm starving, so mind if I grab a bite to eat?
Oh! Okay.
Ahh, good thing I haven't eaten!
Arishima-kun, you were coming for dinner?
Yeah.
It's like this every night!
Miracles descend bringing along hamburgers and cola.

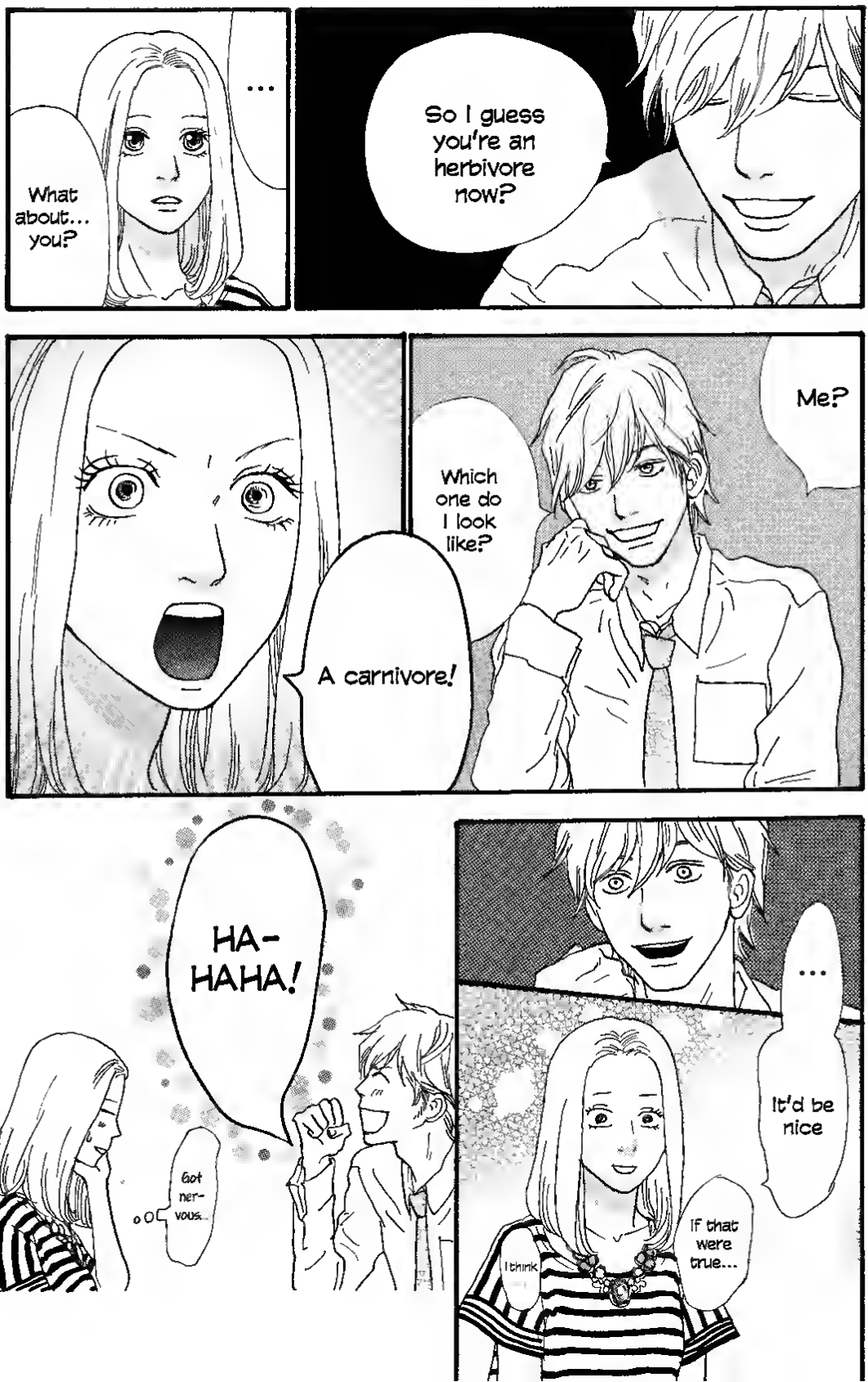
The lovesick-ness that began when I was twelve
mutilated me,
and I was blind ta every ather guy but him.
I loved him,
and loved him,
and loved him.
That girl's pretty creepy.
Huh? Who?
Huh? Didn't you know? She has a crush on you.
All the girls talk about it.
Beats me.
Dunno, but our eyes keep meeting... like she's always watching me.


I thought we were young, but I forget we're already thirty.
But you know,
Wow, you actually remember my birthday?
Well...
...
You were born in April, right?
Damn it.
Oh, but I have an early birthday, so I'm still 29.
That's because ...
...you know?


You've become so pretty.
Oh, my god!

I just naturally lost all my baby fat.
Right.
If I was, I wouldn't be eating or drinking this much.
Are you dieting?


I won't be impatient.
In many ways.
when I was young.
I was pretty greedy
I won't let this chance slip by.


...
What about... you?
So I guess you're an herbivore now?
Me?
Which one do I look like?
A carnivore!
HA-HAHA!
Got ner-vous...
...
It'd be nice
If that were true...
I think

The classic situation.
In the morning, I come early and put it in his desk.
Thump
Thump
I think it was probably stationary or something.
In the April of our second year of middle school, I bought him a present.
HAPPY BIRTHDA
...
KYAHHH!
KYAHHH!
?
HAHAHA
Chatter
Chatter
I don't think it made him happy,
but he didn't show it off to his friends and tease me, and didn't make any nasty remarks.
and went silent.
He just slipped it into his backpack nonchalantly,
Nothing.
SLIP
Hey.
What's that?

Someday this guy and I will definitely-
He was different from the other boys.
His cool reaction made my heart throb violently once again.
Hey.
I heard your parents own a karaoke snack bar?
We were...
just kids back then...

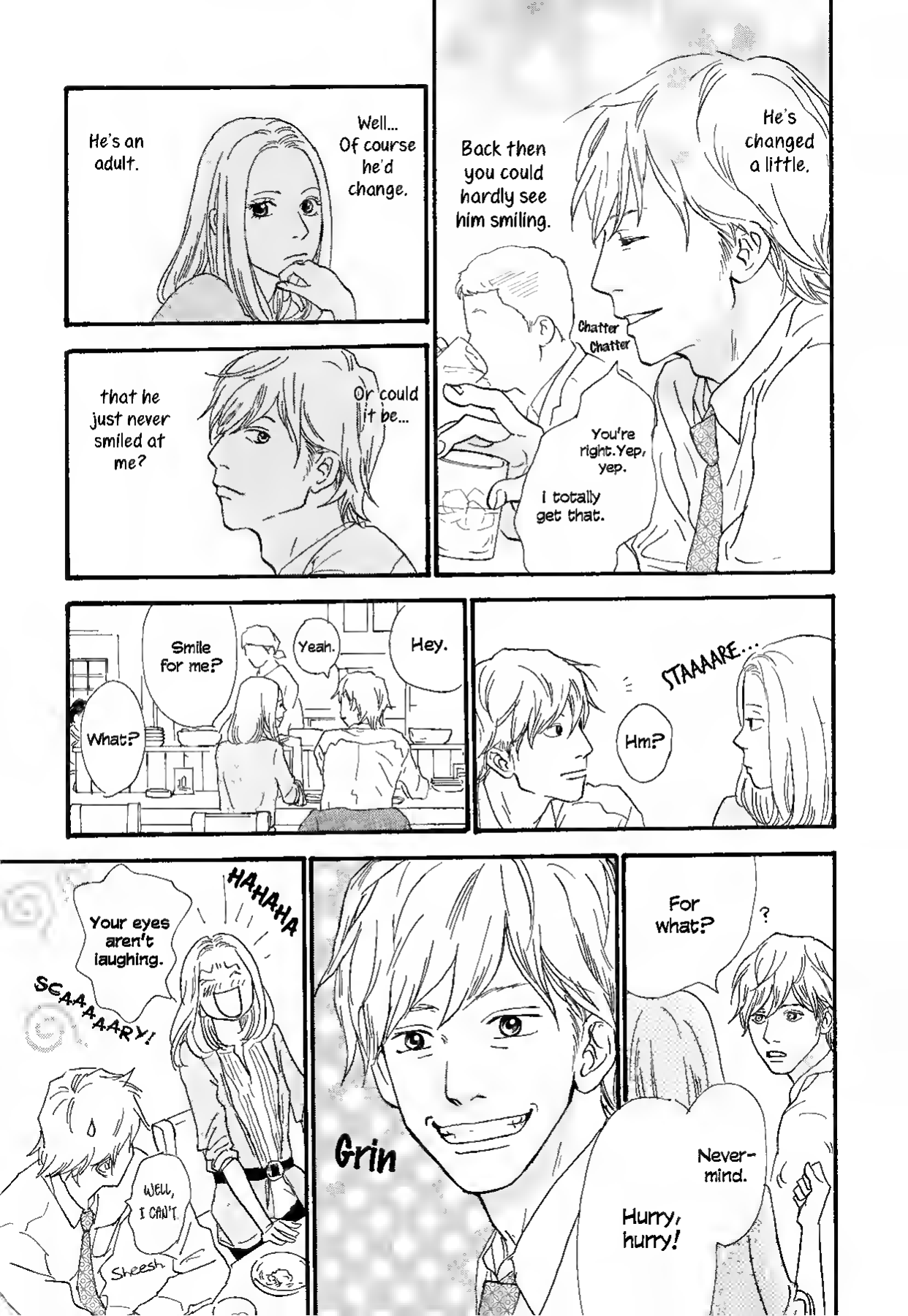
Obviously. We "were" kids.
I see.
Yep.
Your folks still own the shop?
It's gone. Went under long ago.
I see.
Yeah.
Me too.
I want to see you...
again.
POKE
Hm?

I'm sorry, Kyoko. Are you awake?
H- Hello?!
AHH... I WAS JUST ABOUT TO FALL ASLEEP.
Sorry, sorry. But listen for a sec, okay?
I met Arishima-kun!
...
...
ARISHIMA?
Arishima-Kun!
Isn't that amazing? Aren't I amazing?
YOU MEAN, THE GUY YOU'VE LOVED AAAAALL THIS TIME...?
ARISHIMA...
Yep! That Arishima-kun!
HUH...
I just knew it.

Yes, I'm drunk.
Doesn't it sound like fate?
...YOU MUST BE DRUNK
Drunk on love.
click
clack
OPEN
FWSHHH...
KTUNK
FLUSHI
Glug
Glug
Glug...

PHEW
Did you have fun at the drinking party?
I'm home.
Welcome home.
S-
Sooooo
NOD
Yeah.
much fun...
Good night.
I'm glad.
Tomorrow I'll give
Kyoko onother coll.
I hove so much I wont to tell her
about this miracle
ond this good luck.

In the second semester,
I heard your parents own a karaoke snack bar.
that was the first time Arishima-kun spoke to me.
I hated the customers who'd get wasted at my parent's shop, and I hated my parents' drinking, too.
I would cover my ears to block the singing downstairs, and would get headaches sometimes.
To think
that would become something I was grateful for.
Arishima-kun, do you like karaoke?
Yeah!
Not really.
Ahh, so I see.
When I recall memories of Arishima-kun
like this...


He's an adult.
Well... Of course he'd change.
that he just never smiled at me?
Or could it be...
Back then you could hardly see him smiling.
He's changed a little.
Chatter Chatter
You're right. Yep, yep.
I totally get that.
Smile for me?
Yeah.
Hey.
What?
STAAAARE...
Hm?
Your eyes aren't laughing.
HAHAHA
SCAAAAARY!
WELL, I CAN'T
Sheesh
Grin
For what?
?
Never-mind.
Hurry, hurry!

HOTEL
Hmm, it's dirty.
Uhh, well I do.
I'll clean it up next time.
I don't care.
Okay.
For me to be able to say something like this must mean that I've changed from back then as well.
What about your house, Arishima-kun?
Say,
What about your house, Miyoshi?
Can't. I have a roommate.
With two people, we can get a bigger place.
Huh, really? So you share?
It'll be fine if the place is big.
Miyoshi is
your first name, right?
What?
No way. I don't want people to hear us.
Oh, hey.
I've been thinking.

It's Mitsu.
Ohhh right.
Mi-chan it is!
My name.
Hm?
Say it.
Mitsu...

Arishima Koki

A RI SHI MA KOU KI

I'd write out those four letters, as if they were treasures.

Over and over again.

As far Arishima-kun's name, of caurse I'd never forget it.

Over and over again.

KOKI ARISHIMA

KOKI ARISHIMA

KOKI ARISHIMA

It matches, doesn't it? Daesn't it? It really matches, daesn't it?

KOKI ARISHIMA

MITSU MIYOSHI

MITSU ARISHIMA

I...

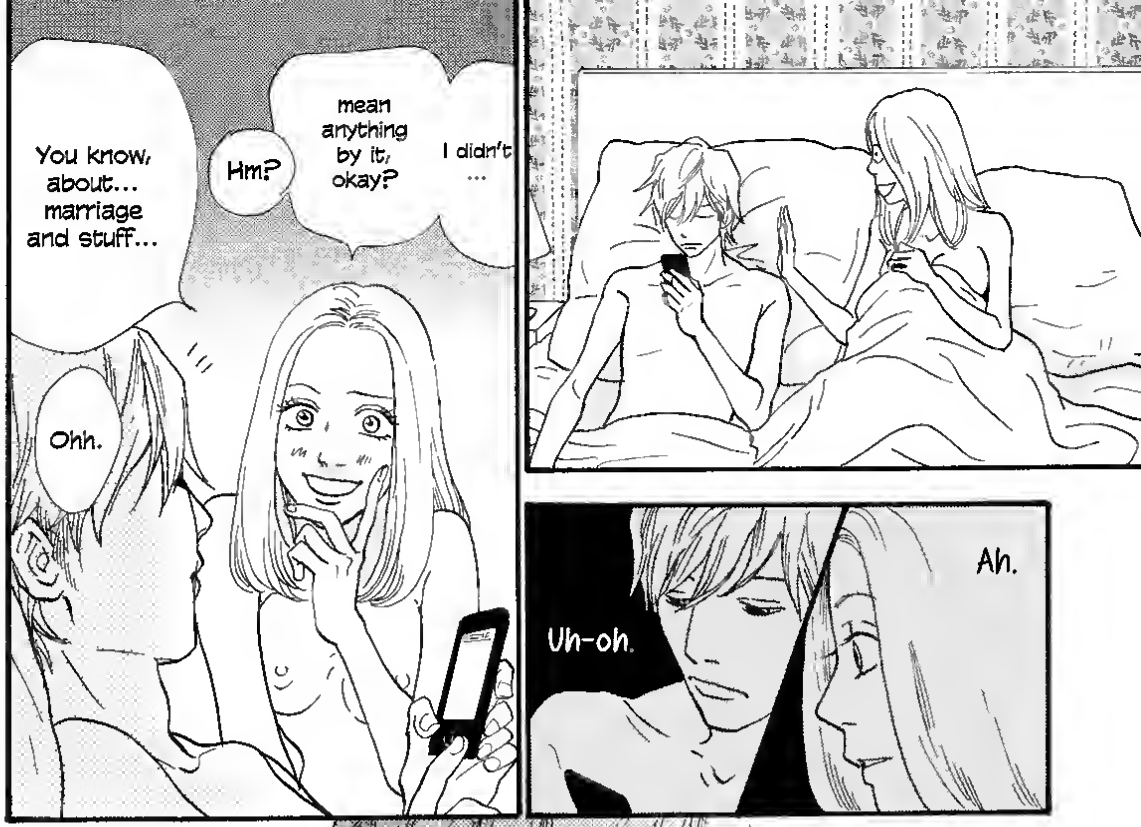
I want to become it. I want to become it. I want to become it.

It was a stupid, childish glee.

But everyone has thought of and dreamed up this happiness at least once.

want...

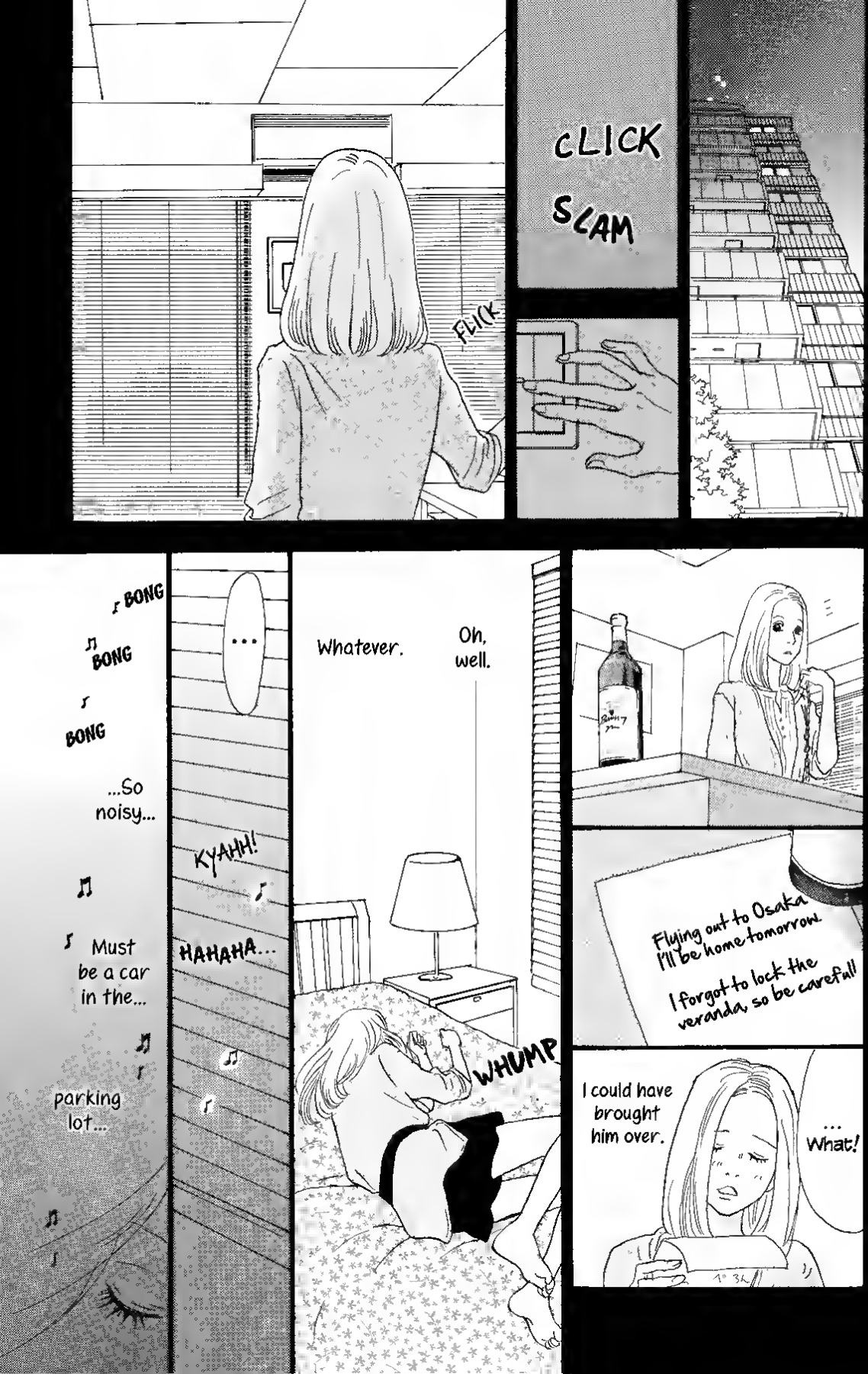
BIP
VRRRRR
VRRRRR
SNAP
Hm?
Mumble Mumble
Mm...
Talking in her sleep?
Yes?
Ohh. Yeah.
Oh, good. I'm glad.
Yeah, I'm fine. I already ate.
Hmm? I said I'm fine.
Yeah.
Okay then, you take care of yourself.
Got it.
Your mom?
... Yeah.
Aww, she worries about you.
BIP
Probably 'cause you're still single at this age!
SLAP



For a moment there,

he went back to his old stiff-faced expression.

Oh, god, no. I don't wont him to think thot I'm the type of womon who'd hope for thot. No woy! It just con't be!
Oh, god, no. I don't wont to be oport from him ogoin. This con't be!


FLICK
CLICK
SLAM
BONG
BONG
BONG
...So noisy...
Must be a car in the...
parking lot...
...
KYAHH!
HAHAHA...
Whatever.
Oh, well.
WHUMP
Flying out to Osaka
I'll be home tomorrow.
I forgot to lock the veranda, so be careful!
I could have brought him over.
... What!

Come here a sec, Mitsu!
FWUP
Mi-chaaaan!
Mit-suuu!
...
Mitsu, this person here is a famous fortune-teller.
...
Oh, I agree!
Middle school, eh? Isn't she cute?
Oh, but she's charging a special fee!
OKAY!
Want her to take a look?
HAHAHA
They're joking. I'm not asking anything.
Oh, goodness. I'm not famous at all!
Eh?
That was local.
But you're in the mags, right?
Tap
Tap
I hated it to death whenever they called me down to the bar.
Ah, here she is.
My girl.
and also,
write down the numbers 0 through 9 here.
Birth-date,
name,

Hmm, a little. Just an eensy-weensy bit?
I agree!
Earnest.
Soft-hearted.
No problems health-wise.
Mm.
Mm-hmm.
Wow, what an obedient child.
HAHAHA
Uh-huh.
Uh-huh.
it's best to marry the second person you fall in love with.
Don't go for the first one.
With you,
I don't want that...
BOOM!
...

It's no wonder that I really believe in it.

With so many people in the world, for me to accidentally meet the guy I loved that much at that place,

Why exactly is this happiness suddenly happening now?

It's been decided.

No matter what it takes, he will be mine.

I can't go with you today.

Sorry.

I love you,

Huh?

Oh... really? Have something to do?

I'm going to Utsunomiya right now.

For work?

No.

Arishima-kun.

My baby's been delivered.

An accident?

I... got a call just now...

My wife
returned home for her delivery and is at Utsunomiya.
I'm heading there now.
Sorry.
Ah...
there you have it.
Well,
AH.
Ohh...
I see.

Are you

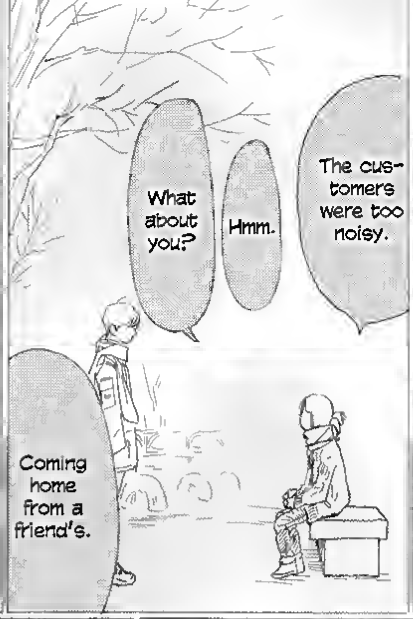
going to disappear again?

What are you doing?

Miyoshi?

Jerk

... ...


What about you?
Hmm.
The customers were too noisy.
Coming home from a friend's.

The entrance is over here.
They're partying hard
You weren't lying.

Can I?
Wanna see... my place?

Even now I'm not really sure.
Was I the one who invited him in?
♪
♫
Whoaaaa Whoa, ♪ a farewell-

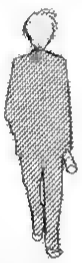
...It's cold.
Wanna come in?

trance.

my secand year af middle af schaal was aver, leaving me in an incamprehensible

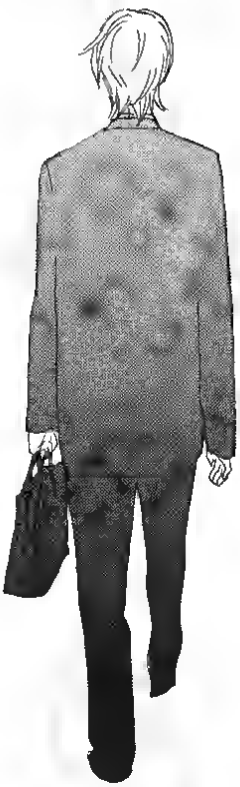
With karaake as a back-drap,

And then, still awkward and withaut speaking to one anather, we graduated.

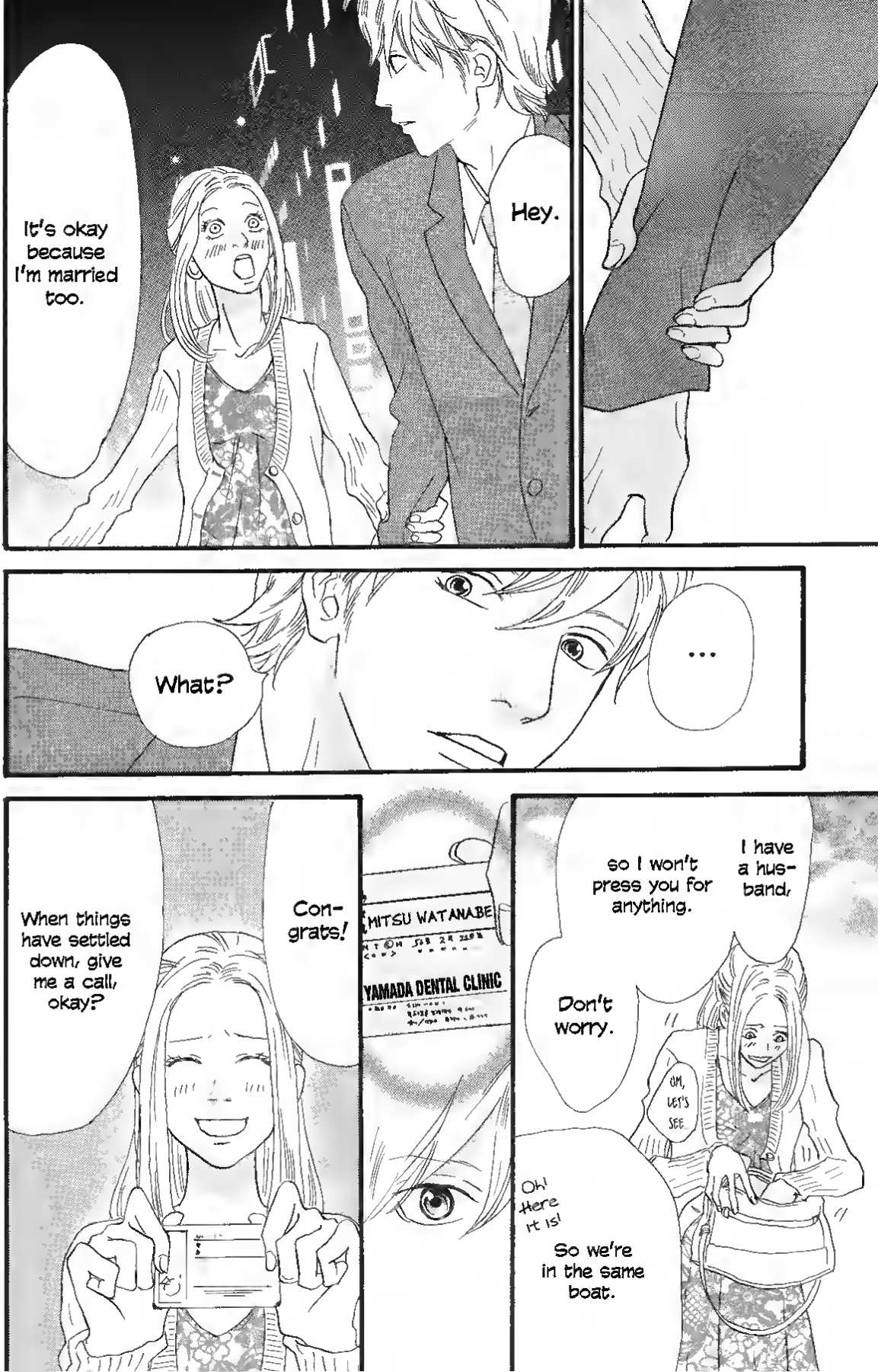


After that, Arishima-kun avaided me.

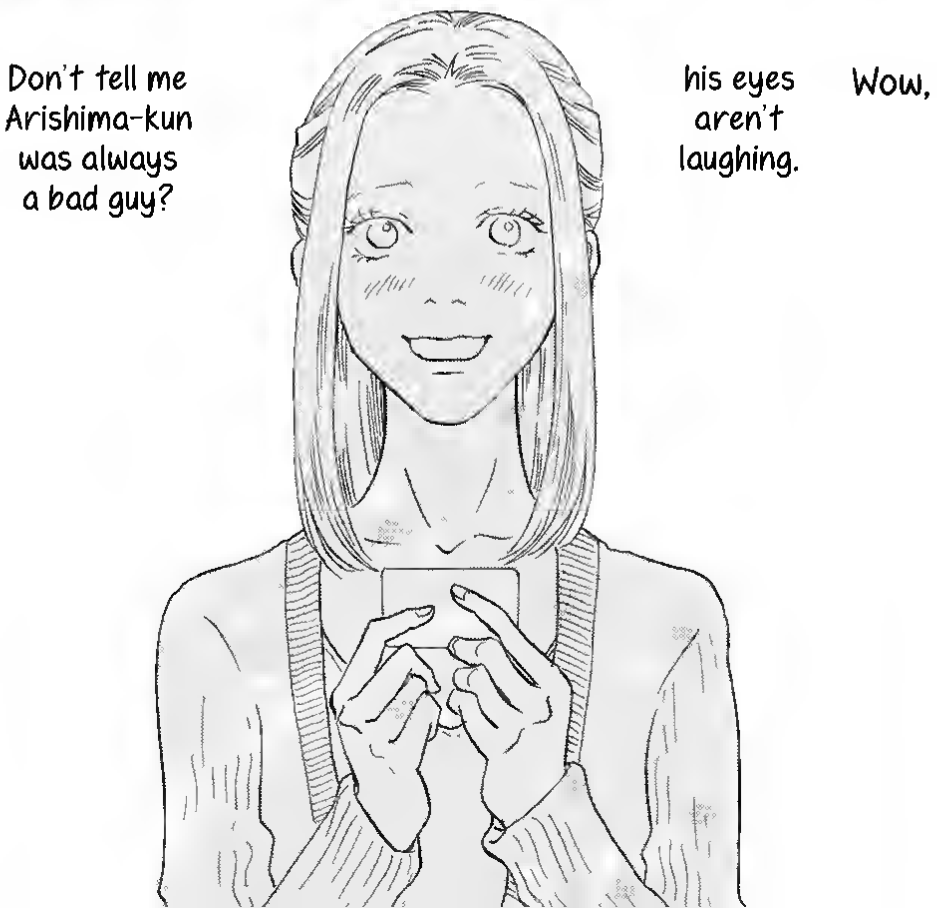
They're different now, Arishima-kun.



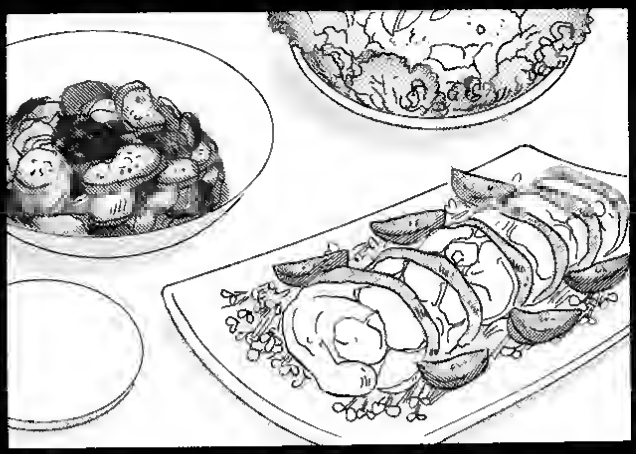
But I think things are different now.


It's okay because I'm married too.
Hey.
What?
...
I have a husband,
so I won't press you for anything.
Don't worry.
Congrats!
When things have settled down, give me a call, okay?
MITSU WATANABE
YAMADA DENTAL CLINIC
Oh, let's see
Oh! Here it is!
So we're in the same boat.

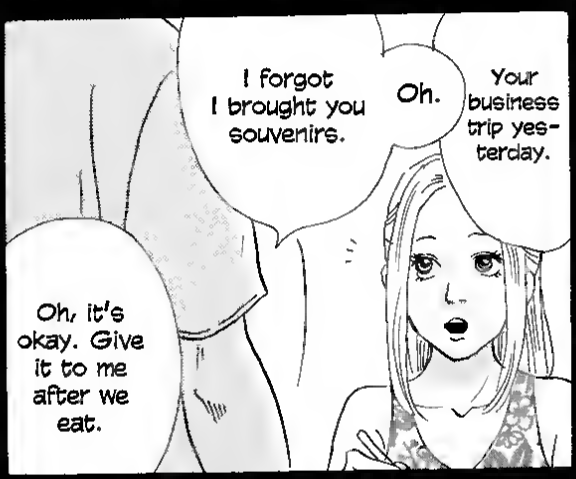
You're ...
so weird...
...Chuckle


Don't tell me Arishima-kun was always a bad guy?
his eyes aren't laughing.
Wow,

Who gets to decide
whether or not he's good or bad?
I bet I must be a really bad person myself.
All I know is that he holds the key to my happiness.
I'm home.
What are you making?
Rice. Have you eaten yet?
No, not yet.
Hey.
Welcome home.



I just finished. Mind grabbing the plates?
Good.


I forgot I brought you souvenirs.
Oh.
Your business trip yesterday.
Oh, it's okay. Give it to me after we eat.

It's delicious.
Yep.

He's a normal guy.

One day I'll be punished for this.

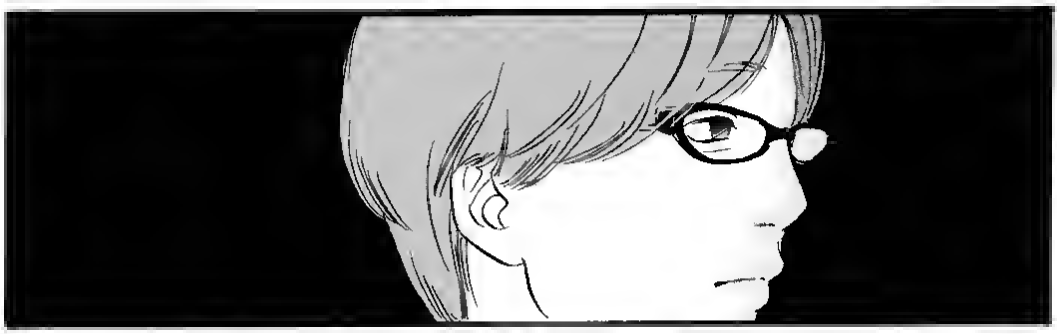
No way! Then what happened?
Then he played it up like an idiot.
With you, Kyoko?
Anyway, what happened with Arishima?
Have things changed?
Don't know, and don't want to see him.
I'd laugh if he got bald though.
Ugh, you're so naive, Miyoshi.
Besides, you've always been too opinionated, Miyoshi.
That's why you quickly tied the knot with some guy you met at the clinic.
I feel sorry for your husband. He's a good guy.
Oh, yeah. He did office work, didn't he?
Really. Ignorance is bliss.

TRRRRR

INCOMING

KOKI ARISHIMA

TRRRRR



Blue flor & Stiletto Heels presents

Anata no Koto wa Sorehodo Chapter 1

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Editor: Edward
QC: Hatsumimi & Yuuko-san

Blu Flor and Heels first ever tag team release, woohoo~!!
Yuuko and I had to sacrifice ten e-llamas to the gods in order to get this thing done, but it was well worth the effort (Actually, we just tazed our staffers to action Haha.)
A great lesson learned from this chapter? In Josei-dom, one can never really tell the difference between a "chubby girl" from a "skinny girl" until someone points it out.